Instructor: Phillip Round  
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University of Iowa  
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Office: T, W 1:30-2  

Course Location: University College Dublin, Belfield Dublin 4. M-W, 10:00-12:00  

Required Texts:  

Selected online material from:  
Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955)  
Chatwin, *In Patagonia* (1977)  
Miller, *Tell it Slant* (2012)  

Course Description: This intensive writing workshop focuses on literary nonfiction, exploring the ways in which the contemporary essay has answered question of voice, scene, point of view, style and theme. Readings will be drawn from Joyce’s *Dubliners* and pieces of contemporary nonfiction. These will serve as the basis for discussing the art and craft of creative prose. They will also offer us springboards for our own writing. Because we are visitors in Ireland, we will focus on creative writing about place, as well as non-fiction techniques for travel narratives and personal essays on the kinds of “difference” such journeys and dislocations incite in the writer, as well as those unexpected responses and interactions the writer inspires in the people he/she meets who call Dublin home.  

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments  

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<th>Week 1</th>
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| June 5 | Arrivals  
| June 6 |  

Introductions  
On Writing: *Miller, “Taking Place”*
Dideon, from *Salvador* (online)
Kincaid, from *A Small Place* (online)

June 7  Yanique, from *Land of Love* (online)
On Writing: Miller, “The Basics of Good Writing”
Writing Prompt (Due June 12)

**Observation and Process**

**Week 2**

June 12  Workshop: Miller, “The Workshop”
June 13  Chatwin, from *In Patagonia*
June 14  Phillips, from *Atlantic Sound*
Writing Prompt (Due June 20)

**In the Frame**

**Week 3**

June 20  Workshop
June 21  Baldwin, “Stranger in the Village”
On Writing: Miller, “The Writing Process and Revision”
June 22  Pico Iyer, TBA
Writing Prompt (Due June 26)

**The Example of Joyce**

**Week 4**

June 26  Workshop
June 27  *Dubliners*, “Araby”
On Writing: *Specificity and Detail*
June 28  *Dubliners*, “Little Cloud,” “A Painful Case”
On Writing: *Developing Characters*
Writing Prompt (Due July 3)

**Week 5**

July 3  Workshop
July 4  *Dubliners*, “The Dead”
July 5  On Writing: *Epiphany*
Final Project (Due July 10)

**Envoy**

**Week 6**

July 10  Workshop
July 11  Workshop
Session Details: Class meets 3 times a week. The Workshop is of 2 hours duration with a brief break. Syllabus is subject to change due to current events. Students read other class members work with attention. Students give short written and verbal assessment of all work. Students should be prepared to give and receive helpful comments.

- **Presentations:** each student will lead a 20 minute discussion of at least one story or essay (see presentation guidelines for instructions).

- **Four short writing assignments:** on Wednesdays, students will be assigned a short writing prompt that will be completed and posted to ICON the following Monday morning. The work you submit must be written specifically for this class (norecycling).

- **Creative essay project:** one 8-page (double-spaced) polished and thoughtful work of narrative prose on being in Ireland (writing about place) Due Friday, July 7.

- **Attendance:** for obvious reasons, you’re required to attend every class, and all excursions. Accepted absence: illness. Having more than one excused absence, and any unexcused ones at all, will result in a lowered final grade.

- **Participation:** come to each class having read the day’s assignment; be prepared to listen, ask questions, and help make sense of the readings.

- **Workshop:** Mondays are workshop days. During the first five weeks, students will workshop short writing prompts on Mondays. These will have been uploaded to ICON by the start of class. The last week of class will be dedicated to workshopping drafts of your creative essay project.

- **Excursions:** Excursions in and beyond Dublin may be integrated into our schedule as time allows. A complete itinerary will be shared with participants within a few weeks of departure to Ireland. The itinerary will be subject to change. Costs associated with these excursions may be the responsibility of the students, and will not be included as part of the course fee.

**Grading:** Students are graded on their written work, and their participation in the workshop. The written responses students write to each other regarding their work is also considered when grades are assigned. Attendance at all workshops is mandatory and absence as well as lateness is taken into account when the grade is assigned. Missing more than one class will have an adverse impact on grade. Failing to submit a paper may result in an F grade. In addition to the above, the student is graded on the *quality* of the work. Effort and improvement (application of workshop advice, attention to technique) are the standards by which quality is assessed.